

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

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SUBJECT Activity and Disposition of Border Police Units in the Halberstadt District

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1. In mid-July 1952, a commission consisting of a Soviet brigadier general, a Volkspolizei (VP) Generalinspekteur, and a representative of the SED Central Committee appeared in Halberstadt and issued the order to continue the work along the zonal border.
2. Work was started immediately in the Hoetenleben-Appenrode sector under the supervision of the commanding officer of the border police Bereitschaft in Halberstadt. At first, 600 civilian workers were employed, but in mid-August this labor force was reduced to 400 men. Trucks and 16 tractors were also observed. The labor detachment worked on the security strip, constructed wire obstacles and made the roads and paths leading to the zonal border unusable.
3. During the reported period, only a few people crossed the border illegally. Illegal border crossing has been made very difficult by the regulation in force in the 5-km restricted zone along the zonal border. Any person entering the zone must have a special permit. The 500-meter security strip is specially marked. Any person found in this strip will be arrested. Fields within this security strip may be worked only on special days and under the supervision of VP personnel.
4. The border in the Halberstadt district appeared to be only lightly occupied. The stretch between Hoetenleben and Appenrode, the northern portion of the sector controlled by the border police Bereitschaft in Halberstadt, is subdivided into two Kommandanturen, one in Dedeleben and the other in Luetzenrode. Each of these Kommandanturen has a strength of about one company. The Kommandantur in Dedeleben has three Kommandos, i.e. in Dedeleben, Feldheim and Rhoden, whereas the Kommandantur in Luetzenrode has Kommandos only in Wilperode and Appenrode.
5. A school for police candidates is located in Rohrsheim. This school is assigned to the Kommandantur in Dedeleben. In early August 1952, all the Kommandos in the area of the Dedeleben Kommandantur were released, allegedly because their contact with the local population had become too close. They were replaced by volunteers from the Rohrsheim training school or from the cadre units of the Bereitschaft in Halberstadt.

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6. Soviet troops are quartered in a tent camp near Dardesheim in the Dedelschen border sector. Details of 2 to 4 men are trucked from this camp for a 12-hour round of duty along the border. They are employed independently of the German border police, particularly in sectors which are frequently used by illegal border crossers. Soviet troops were also observed in the sector of the Luettgenrode Kommandatur. They and the Soviets quartered in the tent camp near Dardesheim are said to have come from Stapelberg or Ilsenburg.

7. Some workers employed for obstacle construction work along the border fled to the west. Fifteen of them have returned in the meantime [redacted] and resumed their old work along the border. *

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* Comment. It appears that the conditions along the zonal border in the Halberstadt sector have not appreciably changed since June 1952. The Kommandatur in Warsleben is also assigned to the Bereitschaft in Halberstadt, while the Kommando Ilsenburg is assigned to the Luettgenrode Kommandatur.

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